

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 084790
ORIGIN SAB-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 PRS-01 DODE-00
/032 R

DRAFTED BY S/AB:DLAZAR
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU
-----150652Z 082897 /10

R 150032Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 084790

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:STATE DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING

THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE APRIL 13 NOON
PRESS BRIEFING.

QUESTION. HODDING, IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE THE PANAMA
CANAL TALKS RESUMED AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF A NEW ROUND
OF TALKS. WHY IS THERE A DELAY? IS IT HERE OR IS IT IN
PANAMA? ANSWER. I'M NOT ACCEPTING THE IDEA OF A DELAY.

QUESTION. WELL, WE WERE TOLD LAST MONTH THAT IT MIGHT
BE SHORTLY AFTER APRIL 1 AND THE PANAMANIANIANS TALKED
ABOUT THE END OF MARCH, AND HERE IT IS THE MIDDLE OF APRIL
AND NOTHING. ANSWER. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PANAMANIANIANS, AS WE HAVE TOLD YOU
BEFORE, AND THE PROCESS OF THE ONGOING EFFORT TO REACH
AN AGREEMENT ON THE PANAMA CANAL HAS NOT COME TO A DEAD
END. IT HAS NOT COME TO A CONCLUSION. IT HAS NOT
FOUNDERED ON ANY SHORES THAT ARE DIMLY SEEN OR ANYTHING
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OF THE SORT. I MEAN THE PROCESS IS CONTINUING.

QUESTION. DID YOU GET ANYTHING BACK FROM AMBASSADOR
JORDEN ON THAT INCIDENT AT THE GATE? ANSWER. YES, I'VE
GOT SOMETHING ON THAT.

ANSWER (CONT.) I'M GOING TO PRETEND YOU PHRASED YOUR

QUESTION THIS WAY SINCE I'VE GOT MY ANSWER THIS WAY.
THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSED THE CASE WITH
AMBASSADOR WILLIAM JORDEN YESTERDAY. NO FORMAL PROTEST
NOTE WAS ISSUED, BUT THE MINISTER'S CONCERN WAS CLEAR.
SINCE THE U.S. PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE CASE WERE ALL
DEPARTMENT OF ARMY OFFICIALS, I SUGGEST YOU REFER
QUESTIONS ON THAT CASE TO THAT DEPARTMENT (LAUGHTER).

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Subject: STATE DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE APRIL 13 NOON PRESS BRIEFING.
TAGS: PFOR, EWWT, SOPN, PN, US
To: PANAMA
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